

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Original): A multi-piece golf ball comprising:

a core;

a first intermediate layer;

a second intermediate layer; and

a cover, wherein

the first intermediate layer comprises a plurality of ribs formed on the core,

the second intermediate layer is placed in concave portions surrounded by the ribs,

the cover forms an outermost layer,

the ribs extend in such a manner that the widths thereof become wider from the cover side to the core side,

the concave portions are formed into a cone-like shape by the side surfaces of the ribs,

the hardnesses of the core, the first intermediate layer and the second intermediate layer are different from each other, and

the hardness of the first intermediate layer is greater than that of the second intermediate layer.

Claim 2 (Original): A multi-piece golf ball according to Claim 1, wherein the hardness of the core is less than that of the second intermediate layer.

Claim 3 (Original): A multi-piece golf ball according to Claim 1, wherein the hardness of the core is greater than that of the first intermediate layer.

Claim 4 (Original): A multi-piece golf ball according to Claim 1, wherein the rib height is in the range from 6.4 to 11.2 mm.

Claim 5 (Original): A multi-piece golf ball according to Claim 1, wherein the diameter of the core is in the range from 15.1 to 28.3 mm.

Claim 6 (Original): A multi-piece golf ball according to Claim 1, wherein the ribs extend along three great circles drawn around the core so as to intersect each other at right angles.

Claim 7 (Original): A multi-piece golf ball according to Claim 1, wherein each of the ribs is provided with a notch so as to form a passageway between adjacent concave portions.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A multi-piece golf ball according to Claim 7, wherein the ribs extend along three great circles drawn around the core so as to intersect each other at right angles, and form circular arc sections between each intersection of each rib,

each circular arc section of the ribs divided at the intersections of the great circles is provided with a said notch, and

the notch has a plane that extends from one point of the normal line of the core passing through the intersection of the great circles toward the circular arc section, the plane having an angle that is not smaller than 90° relative to the normal line.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) A multi-piece golf ball according to Claim 7, wherein the ribs extend along three great circles drawn around the core so as to intersect each other at right angles, and form circular arc sections between each intersection of each rib,

each circular arc section of the ribs divided at the intersections of the great circles is provided with a said notch,

the notch is formed in the middle of the circular arc section in the circular direction and has two planes each extending toward the intersection side from one point on the normal line of the core passing through the mid point of each circular arc section in the circular direction, and

the angle formed between each of the planes and the normal line is 45 to 48°.

Claims 10-18 (canceled).